



## ACTION MEMORANDUM

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March 7, 1981

TO: The Deputy Secretary

FROM: NEA - Nicholas A. Veliotis, Designate

SUBJECT: SIG Meeting on Pakistan

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Attached is a Study Memorandum containing IG recommendations on constructing a new relationship with Pakistan. The IG strongly believes that such a relationship would serve critical US interests in countering Soviet expansion from Afghanistan and in constructing a viable security framework in Southwest Asia.

The IG has reached a consensus on key elements of the policy and recommends that the SIG address the following issues:

1. Resource package: The IG has developed for SIG consideration a minimum five year security assistance program, taking into account our own budget constraints, political acceptability in Pakistan and economic considerations including Pakistan's debt servicing problem. This should be viewed as a new program which will require an add-on to the currently projected security assistance budget. (Some IG members support higher initial resource outlays, but I believe this is unrealistic.)

2. Presidential determination: The SIG should consider recommending a Presidential determination which would allow us to discuss with the Pakistanis our plans for a multi-year assistance program.

3. Security relationship: The IG recommends a broad approach designed over time to build a security relationship which will give Pakistan confidence in our commitment to its security and provide us reciprocal benefits in terms of our regional interests. More specifically, the IG has proposed

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alternative ways to strengthen our security assurances to the Pakistanis, short of formal new commitments. The SIG should examine these alternatives, but our early discussions with the Pakistanis will affect the way in which we will want to handle the issue in the future.

4. Nuclear issue: The IG recognizes the serious problem posed by Pakistan's nuclear explosive program. The SIG should consider the recommendation that we seek to use a new security relationship to influence Pakistani nuclear decision-making. (The decision has already been made to seek a change in Symington Amendment which will permit us to provide security assistance to Pakistan.) The SIG should be aware that the Congress will want to be certain that we have thought through the nuclear problem in the context of our new relationship and will expect us to discuss our concerns with the Pakistanis.

5. Scenario: The IG proposes a very tight scenario of interrelated actions over the next five weeks. This should be considered by the SIG with a view to recommending an early NSC meeting. There is an acute need for early decisions on our Pakistan strategy and the resource package in particular. Congressional consideration of the 1982 budget amendment requires informal consultations on the Pakistan program during the week of March 16. Slippage will reduce the prospects of favorable action. Before we notify the Congress, we must discuss the package with the Pakistanis to gain their acquiescence.

RECOMMENDATION

That you call a SIG meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 1981.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

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